INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Control: 10889
Rec'd: March 31, 1953
5:50 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 393, March 31, 2 p.m.

Since Salama uprising crushed (EMBTEL 390, March 30) no further disturbances reported. Government has not suspended constitutional guarantees. General staff announced capture three retired army officers who command insurgents and stated other leaders being sought. Late reports indicate 7 dead and 5 wounded. Use of name "Christian Army" by insurgents showed anti-Communist orientation.

Following circumstances of interest in connection with revolt:

(1) Small group of rebels with light arms captured and held for 17 hours a provincial capital and airfield;

(2) People of Salama generally inactive neither resisting uprising nor recapture by government forces;

(3) Rebels put distinctive marks on airfield indicating they expected re-enforcements by air and their armament was obviously insufficient for coping with army;

(4) Troops at Coban acted promptly and efficiently to put down revolt and no army officers on active duty have yet been implicated in it;

(5) Anti-government elements were not united since leading anti-government groups in Guatemala City apparently not involved.

KREIG

NA: JM/15

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